



Coolum & North Shore
Advertiser

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Skysister recruit hits record heights

Coolum mum soars into skydiving

COOLUM mother of two Kylie Stephenson has become the only local woman brave enough to join funky Skysisters Susie McLachlan and Sonja Bruss at their third 'Skysisters Convention' this week.

The nine-day 2011 Skysisters Convention began last Friday at Toogoolawah and involves 100 female adrenalin junkies (aka Skydivers) executing over 5,000 incredible jumps.

Along the way, the Skysisters have challenged a total of six all-female National and World records including the impressive 8-way wingsuit World record with a 10-way of jumpers in multicoloured webbed 'wingsuit' outfits joining in perfect formation.

The huge event is organised by Skydive Ramblers director Susie McLachlan who put out the call for 'skydiving virgins' to sign up to be part of the action and participate in a pre-event training camp.

Kylie Stephenson heeded that call after seeing our article (CA/23-09-2010) and nervously executed her first jump at the Student Skysisters Camp last Tuesday.

Speaking from Toogoolawah that day, an extremely nervous Kylie said

she felt safe on her first jump with Ramblers instructor 'Belgium Steve'.

"It was an awesome feeling! The first time under canopy was wonderful, I talked myself through the landing pattern and the very first landing was almost perfect," she said.

By last Wednesday afternoon, Kylie had completed her theory lessons, learnt all about the gear and executed five out of the nine jumps required week long student course – and was well on her way to achieving her skydiving license.

"She is loving it; and typical of a beautiful spirited lady, she is going through the emotional roller coaster ride of jumping out of planes," Skysisters organiser Susie McLachlan said.

Kylie completed all of her required jumps last Friday and armed with her brand new skydiving license, is thrilled to have participated in the 2011 Skysisters Convention, which finishes tomorrow.

So far the 100 strong all-female, thrill-seeking skydivers have challenged themselves with Fashion Glamour jumps, Lady Bird Lingerie Jumps, Easter themed jumps, a 3-Generation jump, night jumps, colour-coordinated visual jumps and

a filmed Cypres Body Painting day.

Sunday's thrill-a-minute jumps also included a Big-way Record Attempt and the POPS (Parachutists Over Phorty Society) Record attempt.

Today (Thursday) sees them attempt to break the CRW 9-way Diamond National Record and the Wingsuit 10-way Wedge World Record.

The girls will do their final fashion and Lingerie jumps on Friday morning and then get ready for the evening's 'Get Froked' photo competition and party night.

Skysisters 2011 comes to a close on Saturday night with the Skysisters Gala Ball – and the presentation of the all-important record awards.

"Skysisters is all about a group of girls of all ages getting together to inspire and motivate each other while having a lot of fun and breaking some records along the way," said Susie.

"We've been able to offer an action-packed program of great activities for the skydivers and impressive visuals for spectators. It's been a spectacular success so far."

Regular updates of the remaining events are being posted on www.facebook.com/skysisters.

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SKY'S THE LIMIT: A euphoric Kylie Stephenson hits the ground running after her first skydive last Tuesday. She has been participating the Skysisters Convention this week after qualifying for her license on Friday.